



## British Geophysical Association

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### Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 27 February 2001

held at Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, London

#### Present

Jon Bull, Roger Musson, Sheila Peacock, Paul Young

#### Apologies

Mike Kendall, Peter Maguire, Graham Stuart, Jared West, Wyn Williams

#### 1) Minutes of the previous meeting

These were not taken, as the previous meeting last year in Manchester was informal, and the subsequent meeting in Leeds was aborted due to weather.

#### 2) Matter arising

Items which would have taken here were taken under other business.

#### 3) Chairman's report

Paul Young reported that the Bullerwell Lecture for this year is all sorted out. It will be given by Nicky White at the EGS meeting in Nice on 27 March 2001. He suggested that if this proves successful, EGS could be the regular venue for the Bullerwell in alternate years. We should aim to get adequate information out about this. The EGS web site carries an announcement; so does the BGA one (Roger Musson notes - it could be more prominent).

Action on Roger Musson: Circulate the details to the Geophysics mailing list. Note: I think this was done some time ago; I also posted the details on Usenet.

Action on Roger Musson: Inform Mrs Bullerwell.

Action on Roger Musson: Chase up the Bullerwell slide and post to Paul Young.

Action on Jon Bull: Contact the Geol Soc about funding the speaker's travelling expenses.

Action on Paul Young: Take some of the new BGA leaflets to Nice for distribution there.

#### 4) Secretary's report

The BGA contribution to the Geol Soc annual report was submitted and received in time.

#### 5) Treasurer's report

Our current financial situation is healthy, with about £9,000 in the bank. With regard to the leaflets, £500 has been requested by Sue Bowler for services rendered, but the bill for printing costs has not been received yet, and is expected to be about £2,000.

The domain name for the web site requires a regular payment to Nominet.

Action on Jon Bull: Arrange a standing order to cover this.

#### 6) Future meetings

Sheila Peacock reported that nothing new had been arranged. Paul Young raised the subject of introducing some sort of substitute for UKGA, which could be a largish meeting of a thematic nature. It appears that there is no hope of reviving UKGA, since there is inadequate support for it and a lack of anyone with the commitment to running it. After some discussion it was decided that we should start a programme of annual meetings to be held at the Geol Soc in July or September. Each meeting would be arranged around a theme, the aim being to focus on new cutting-edge science; the series title could be "New Advances in Geophysics" (NAG). Each meeting would be 1½ or 2 days long, and the first one should be in 2002, possibly on the topic of remote observation/satellite-based geophysics.

Some other meetings were discussed. Paul Young said he was interested in arranging a small meeting on brittle rock fracture. He also suggested a possible meeting on CTBT-related science.

Action on Paul Young: Contact Blacknest and discuss the idea with Peter Marshall.

Action on Roger Musson: Consult the whole of the BGA committee as to their ideas about the best timing for the NAG series.

#### 7) The Gray-Milne Fund

Roger Musson outlined the background behind this. The fund was started in 1905 to support work on the structure of the Earth, and was formerly administered by the Seismological Committee of the BAAS, which is now defunct. BGA has been asked to take it over. In effect, the Chairman of BGA would become the sole trustee of the fund. It is worth about £2,500 per annum.

It was quickly decided that this would be ideal for funding the NAG meeting series, which would be a completely appropriate use for it, respecting the intentions of Gray and Milne.

Action on Roger Musson: Contact John Hudson to arrange transfer of the fund to BGA; liase with Jon Bull.

## 8) The web site

It was reported that the web site has now been sorted out by Wyn Williams and has been up and running for some time. Connections with Sheila Peacock have not been sorted out yet. The old site on Mailbase is still live but is not being updated.

Action on Sheila Peacock: Contact Mailbase and get them to replace it with a redirection page.

Roger Musson reported (since Wyn Williams was stranded in Edinburgh by snow) that Wyn Williams has many ideas for future development of the site. It could be made much more dynamic, with updates on news, jobs, studentships, and so on, but the effort this would require in terms of labour would need to be funded, perhaps by outside sponsorship.

Action on Roger Musson and Wyn Williams: Meet and discuss.

Paul Young mentioned that the new leaflets had been held up because they could not be distributed until the domain name was live.

Action on Paul Young and Graham Stuart: Arrange distribution of leaflets to university departments as soon as possible.

Action on Paul Young, Graham Stuart and Wyn Williams: Make sure the html versions of the leaflets appear on the web site.

## 9) Links with parent bodies

Roger Musson reported that John Cosgrove has left the Geol Soc Council and is therefore no longer on the BGA Committee as Geol Soc representative. A replacement is needed; Roger Musson has emailed Geol Soc about this but without reply so far.

The Committee considered that there ought also to be a BGA representative on the Geol Soc Science Board, and that it should be Jon Bull.

Action on Paul Young: Write to Ed Nickless to arrange this.

Action on Paul Young: talk with Mike Hapgood about links between BGA and RAS, and invite him to be a co-opted committee member.

## 10) Student prizes

The question was raised as to what arrangements should be made in future years for BGA student prizes; experience at Geoscience 2000 was less than satisfactory. Ideas were discussed for some suitable forum at which PhD students could present at; something like a one-day meeting in London, which could possibly be tacked on at the end of the NAG meetings. A first prize of £500 to £1000 would be a suitable incentive.

## 11) Nomination for Society awards

The discussion on this subject was off the record. It was noted that it would be as well to start thinking about suggestions for the next Bullerwell lecturer.

## 12) Committee membership

It was felt that there is a need to strengthen Committee membership; at present this stands at nine; there is provision for up to sixteen. Members are needed who will have duties over

and above simply turning up for meetings. The present membership was felt to be too university based (only one member - Roger Musson - is not in a university post). We should be looking to recruit new people from industry and the non-university teaching profession.

### 13) AGM

The only suitable venue seems to be the Geol Soc/GSA "Earth Systems and Processes" conference in Edinburgh 24-28 June.

Action on Roger Musson: Negotiate access to a meeting room for lunchtime on 28 June.

Action on Roger Musson: Arrange working dinner on 27 June.

Action on Roger Musson: Liase with rest of Committee.

Note: I have since determined that BGS has little involvement with the LOC; the responsible person is Helen Wilson at the Geol Soc, who has not yet replied to my email.

### 14) AOB

None

### 15) Date of next meeting

Over dinner on 27 June 2001 at a suitable Edinburgh restaurant.

Roger Musson  
British Geophysical Association Secretary